

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case # 5415

AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising continuous conjugate filaments, ~~which further comprise that have been mechanically separated along their lengths into~~ at least a first filament material and a second filament material ~~that are longitudinally separable into elementary filaments~~, wherein said first filament material is a polyester and said second filament material is a polyamide, and wherein said nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 5.5 ml/g.
18. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 17 wherein said nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 6.25 ml/g.
19. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 17 wherein the nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 7.0 ml/g.
20. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 17 wherein said polyamide is selected from the group consisting of nylon 6, nylon 6 6, nylon 1 1, and nylon 610.
21. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 20 wherein said polyamide is nylon 6.

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22. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 17 wherein said polyester is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytrimethylene terephthalate (PTT), and polylactic acid (PLA).
23. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 22 wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
24. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising continuous conjugate filaments, which further comprise at least a first filament material and a second filament material that are longitudinally ~~separable~~ separated by mechanical means into elementary filaments, wherein said first filament material is a polyester having hydrolized ester groups and enhanced hydrophilic characteristics ~~by having exposed said polyester to a basic solution~~ and wherein said second filament material is a polyamide whose filament structure is eroded ~~by having been exposed to an acidic solution~~.

Claims 25 – 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 wherein said polyamide is selected from the group consisting of nylon 6, nylon 6 6, nylon 1 1, and nylon 610.
29. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 28 wherein said polyamide is nylon 6.

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30. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 wherein said polyester is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytriphenylene terephthalate (PTT), and polylactic acid (PLA).
31. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 30 wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
32. (New) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 comprising continuous conjugate filaments, which further comprise at least a first filament material and a second filament material that are longitudinally separable into elementary filaments, wherein said first filament material is a polyester having hydrolyzed ester groups and enhanced hydrophilic characteristics and said second filament material is a polyamide whose filament structure has been eroded, and wherein said nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 5.5 ml/g.
33. (New) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 wherein said nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 6.25 ml/g.
34. (New) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 wherein the nonwoven fabric has an absorption capacity of at least 7.0 ml/g.